

AIRGRAM

123 Bowles,
Chester

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RM/R	REP	AF
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3	5	4
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4	5	
8	P	IO
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2	4/P	3/S
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AGR	COM	PRB
INT	LAB	TAR
TR	XMS	AIR
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ARMY	CIA	NAVY
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OSC	USA	NSA
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A-284

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XK 61145j
HANLING INDICATOR

TO : DEPARTMENT OF STATE

INFO: CONAKRY, DAKAR

FROM : Amembassy ACCRA

DATE:

SUBJECT: Ambassador Bowles Visit to Nkrumah

REF :

Ambassador Chester Bowles and I called on President Nkrumah at Flagstaff House the evening of November 1, 1962 after I had arranged the appointment through Erica Powell that morning. The President met us alone in his office at 5:30 p.m.

After an exchange of reminiscences (Bowles was here seven years ago), Ambassador Bowles made several compelling points. He related a long conversation with Soviet Ambassador Dobrynin he had the day before he left Washington on his African trip (about October 14) in which he told Dobrynin the U.S. had some evidence that the Soviets were placing offensive weapons in Cuba. Bowles said Dobrynin was very upset to hear this and Bowles explained to Nkrumah that he thought at the time that Dobrynin honestly lacked knowledge of the Russian activities, since Ambassadors occasionally are not fully informed for tactical reasons. All of this, of course, developed the theme of Soviet stealth.

During this part of the talk Nkrumah went over to his desk and got the Cuban photographs I had given him several days before to show Bowles, since the latter remarked he had not seen them.

Bowles told Nkrumah that Russia was having serious difficulties both internally and externally, inferring that Russia backed off from Cuba because of problems rather than principle. He mentioned Russia's agricultural shortages, her difficulties with China and Albania and the tentative relationship with Yugoslavia, and her defensive obsession and consequently felt need for huge arms investments.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MB

REVIEWED BY *John J. Doherty* DATE *11/2/62*

RELEASE DECLASSIFY DIA CLASSIFY IN PART TS authority to: OADR

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Drafted by:

Contents and Classification Approved by:

AMB: WMahonney, Jr./reg 11/2/62

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Page No. 2 of A-284 of Nov. , 1962

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W. Mahoney Jr.

William P. Mahoney, Jr.
American Ambassador

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